



The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is my pleasure to transmit the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998 of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since its founding by the U.S. Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded approximately 110,000 grants that have led to the flourishing of the arts in America and have greatly enriched the lives of Americans everywhere. Small and large museum exhibitions, touring theater productions, arts classes for young people, televised concerts, folk arts festivals, innovative partnerships with private and public organizations — the National Endowment for the Arts is a hallmark of all these and more.

Endowment grants this year supported projects ranging from a film retrospective of Paul Robeson in Philadelphia to a Latino performing arts series in Lawrence, Kansas to an elementary school music program in Nashville. Funds also went towards a folk art apprenticeship program in Carson City, Nevada; the publication of an anthology of Alaskan native writers and storytellers; and world premiere dance performances in Houston.

I am especially proud of our new ArtsREACH program, inaugurated in 1998. This initiative provides direct grants to organizations in 20 states where the agency's direct grant recipients have been traditionally underrepresented. It assists communities in those states with the development or implementation of cultural plans — thus advancing the arts in new areas of our nation.

Reflecting the rich diversity of the American people, the arts help us to remember the past, understand each other in the present, and express our dreams for the future. As we venture towards a new millennium, the Arts Endowment remains dedicated to bringing the best of the arts to all Americans.

  
Bill Ivey  
Chairman

